

# Supporters of Increased Access To Quality Care and Early Learning

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The Honorable Mike McGinn  
PO Box 94749  
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Dear Mayor McGinn:

As early learning and child-care providers and advocates, we believe your initiative addressing early learning will bring needed resources, attention, and continuity to child care so more low-income families will have access to quality care and early learning.

The brain science is clear—the first three years of a child’s life are critical to lifelong learning. Retention of early learning and child-care professionals promotes early learning and school readiness. It also protects working families and businesses that all rely on early learning and child-care professionals to educate our children and drive our economy.

Early learning and child-care professionals understand first-hand that working families, especially low-income families, need access to affordable quality care and early learning. Many child-care professionals themselves are parents who work for minimum wages without benefits.

We applaud your recent discussions around launching a city initiative to improve access to quality early learning and child-care for middle- and low-income families in Seattle. The City’s early learning initiatives must address the following areas in order to be successful:

- Reduce high turnover rates in the early child care and early learning profession
- Secure funding sources for innovative programs such as universal pre-kindergarten education
- Expand city child-care services and programs for low-income families and communities
- Advance early learning initiatives that strengthen core learning areas

We look forward to working with the City on this important issue and invite you to meet and visit with us and the families we serve for a first-hand look at this important work in action.

**Sandra Blood**, *University District  
Children’s Center*

**Janice Deguchi**, *Denise Louie Education Center*

**Carol Goss**, *Interlake Child Care and  
Learning Center*

**Tony Lee**, *Solid Ground*

**Paola Maranan**, *Children’s Alliance*

**Fran Keown**, *Kidspace*

**Pam Kilgore**, *Creative Beginnings*

**Lois Martin**, *Community Day Care for Children*

**Angie Maxie**, *Tiny Tots*

**Marcy Bowers**, *Statewide Poverty Action Network*

**John Burbank**, *Economic Opportunity Institute*

**Sandra Nelson**, *Primm ABC Child Care Center*

**Ilene Stark**, *Pike Market Child Care and Preschool*

**Johnny Otto & Laura Chandler**, *Small Faces*

**Monica Peabody**, *Parents Organizing for Welfare  
and Economic Rights*

**Rich Stolz**, *OneAmerica*

**David West**, *Puget Sound Sage*

**Kathy Yasi**, *Adventure Day Care*

**Carmen Masso**, *La Escuelita Bilingual Schools*